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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,254	10/20/2003	Horst Leitner	AMERMOT.022C1	3860
20995	7590	09/07/2004	EXAMINER	
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP			KLEBE, GERALD B	
2040 MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
FOURTEENTH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
IRVINE, CA 92614			3618	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO/ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10689254

EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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20040902

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

In response to the "Request for Clarification" filed 08/18/2004, regarding application Ser. No. 10/689254, refer to the attached.

*GB Klebe*  
GB Klebe / Examiner / Art Unit 3618  
2 September 2004


CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

**RESPONSE to REQUEST for CLARIFICATION**

1. Applicant's Request for Clarification filed August 18, 2004 in response to receipt of the Notice of Allowability on application 10/689254 mailed July 23, 2004, is acknowledged. Applicant's Request includes a listing of references of record in the parent (09/817897, now US Patent No. 6,641,158) as well as a listing of commonly-owned patents and co-pending applications, and references of record related thereto.
2. The examiner has reviewed the list and hereby affirms that all references listed were considered as part of the process of examination of the present application 10/689254. A copy of Applicant's list with the examiner's annotations and signature in attestation as to their consideration in the examination of 10/689254 is provided as an attachment hereto.
3. Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communication(s) from the examiner should be directed to Gerald B. Klebe at 703-305-0578, fax 703-872-9306; Mon.-Fri., 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM ET, or to Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher P. Ellis, Art Unit 3618, at 703-308-2560.

Official correspondence should be sent to the following TC 3600 Official Rightfax numbers as follows: Regular correspondence: 703-872-9326; After Finals: 703-872-9327; Customer Service: 703-872-9325.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gbklebe / Art Unit 3618 / 2 September 2004

Attachment

  
CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

AMERMOT.022C1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT  
RECEIVED  
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AUG 18 2004

Applicant : Horst Leitner  
Appl. No. : 10/689,254  
Filed : October 20, 2003  
For : RETRACTABLE VEHICLE  
STEP  
Examiner : Gerald B. Klebe

) Group Art Unit: 3618

) CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all  
) marked attachments are being facsimile  
) transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office  
) on the date shown below:

August 18, 2004

(Date)

*Mark J. Keitz*  
Mark J. Keitz, Reg. No. 43,711

OFFICIAL

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability mailed on July 23, 2004, Applicant submits the following Request for Clarification.

I. REFERENCES OF RECORD IN PARENT APPLICATION NO. 09/817,897

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered, pursuant to M.P.E.P. §§ 609 and 2001.06(b), the following references which are of record in the parent (serial no. 09/817,897, now U.S. Patent No. 6,641,158) of the present application:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS:

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
2,436,961 A	3/1948	Gabriel
2,575,615 A	11/1951	Crump

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Filed : October 20, 2003

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
✓ 3,172,499 A	3/1965	Stairs
✓ 3,528,574 A	9/1970	Denner et al.
✓ 3,833,240 A	9/1974	Weiler
✓ 3,887,217 A	6/1975	Thomas
✓ 3,889,997 A	6/1975	Schoneck
✓ 3,957,284 A	5/1976	Wright
✓ 4,020,920 A	5/1977	Abbott
✓ 4,073,502 A	2/1978	Frank et al.
✓ 4,106,790 A	8/1978	Weiler
✓ 4,110,673 A	8/1978	Nagy et al.
✓ 4,116,457 A	9/1978	Nerem et al.
✓ 4,180,143 A	12/1979	Clugston
✓ 4,188,889 A	2/1980	Favrel
✓ 4,623,160 A	11/1986	Trudell
✓ 4,720,116 A	1/1988	Williams et al.
✓ 4,909,700 A	3/1990	Fontecchio et al.
✓ 4,982,974 A	1/1991	Guidry
✓ 5,085,450 A	2/1992	DeHart, Sr.
✓ 5,199,731 A	4/1993	Martin
✓ 5,257,847 A	11/1993	Yonehara
✓ 5,284,349 A	2/1994	Bruns et al.
✓ 5,286,049 A	2/1994	Khan
✓ 5,375,864 A	12/1994	McDaniel
✓ 5,462,302 A	10/1995	Leitner
✓ 5,498,012 A	3/1996	McDaniel et al.
✓ <del>5,506,476 A</del> 5505476A <i>MAK</i>	4/1996	Maccabee
✓ 5,538,269 A	7/1996	McDaniel et al.
✓ 5,547,040 A	8/1996	Hanser et al.
✓ 5,601,300 A	2/1997	Fink et al.
✓ 5,842,709 A	12/1998	Maccabee
✓ 5,941,342 A	8/1999	Lee
✓ 5,957,237 A	9/1999	Tigner
✓ 6,082,751 A	7/2000	Hanes et al.

*MAK*

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Filed : October 20, 2003

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
✓ 6,149,172 A	11/2000	Pascoe et al.
✓ 6,213,486 B1	4/2001	Kunz et al.
✓ 6,270,099 B1	8/2001	Farkash
✓ 6,375,207 B1	4/2002	Dean et al.
✓ 6,435,534 B1	8/2002	Stone

# FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:

COUNTRY	NUMBER	DATE
✓ Germany	31 51 621 A1	12/1981
✓ Germany	<del>89 10 933</del> 89/10 933.3 <i>M/K</i>	9/1989
✓ Great Britain	934387	8/1963
✓ Japan	63 255144	10/1988
✓ Japan	4-339040	11/1992

# OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

✓ Suppliers; AAS looks at New Markets.(Advanced Accessory Systems LLC) (Brief Article) (Product Announcement); Ward's Auto World, pNA, Dec., 2000.
✓ AN Archives; Weeks of Nov. 13-26, 1997; Powerforce pickup; <a href="http://tms.ecol.net/newcars/auto 1113.htm">http://tms.ecol.net/newcars/auto 1113.htm</a> .
✓ Camping World advertisement.

*M/K*

Appl. No. : 10/689,254  
 Filed : October 20, 2003

## II. COMMONLY-OWNED PATENTS AND CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered the following commonly-owned patents and co-pending applications for possible double patenting by the claims currently pending in the present application:

PATENT NO.	ISSUED	INVENTOR(S)
✓ 6,641,158	November 4, 2003	Leitner

SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	INVENTOR(S)
✓ 10/274,418	October 16, 2002	Leitner et al.
✓ 10/641,358	August 14, 2003	Leitner
✓ 10/643,708	August 19, 2003	Leitner et al.

## III. REFERENCES OF RECORD IN COMMONLY-OWNED CO-PENDING APPLICATION NO. 10/274,418

Applicant further respectfully requests the Examiner to clarify that, when examining the present application, he considered the following references that are of record in commonly-owned co-pending application no. 10/274,418:

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS:

PATENT NO.	DATE	INVENTOR(S)
✓ 2,487,921	11/1949	Culver
✓ 2,764,422	9/1956	McDonald
✓ 2,925,876	2/1960	Wagner
✓ 3,039,562	6/1962	Wagner
✓ 4,733,752	3/1988	Sklar
✓ 5,154,125	10/1992	Renner et al.
✓ 5,538,100	7/1996	Hedley

✓ 4/17K

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Filed : October 20, 2003

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the issues detailed above. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Aug. 18, 2004

By: Mark Kertz

Mark J. Kertz  
Registration No. 43,711  
Attorney of Record  
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Irvine, CA 92614  
(949) 760-0404

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*All references were considered when examining  
the present application 10/689 254.*

*MB Klebe  
EXAMINER, ART UNIT 3618  
2 September 2004*